



Skinner Butte Improvement Project

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Background

Skinner Butte is one of Eugene's oldest landmarks, named after the City's founder, Eugene Skinner. Located North of downtown Eugene along the Willamette River, the park consists of 100 acres of forest, recreational paths, and picturesque sights. A short drive brings visitors to the top of the Butte, offering accessible and brilliant views into Downtown and South Eugene. The main parking lot is flanked by an open grassy area, small plaza, and the remaining infrastructure of an EWEB reservoir. Although the view is great, the Butte has become dilapidated over time without significant maintenance. Originally dedicated in 1914, Skinner Butte is known to locals as the birthplace of Eugene with great cultural and historical significance. Although it is unknown to many visitors, the Butte also carries a darker history of Ku Klux Klan activity. The World Athletics Championships is approaching quickly, and there is a push to improve the park's services and overall visitor experience to showcase Eugene to a global audience. There is also interest in acknowledging, addressing, and spreading awareness of the difficult history of the Butte within the project to make it a culturally rich and aesthetically pleasant landmark.

Purpose Statement

This project aims to improve the quality of the user experience on Skinner Butte, one of the most beautiful landmarks and places of gathering in the city of Eugene. In the short-term, we are seeking low-cost solutions to create a more welcoming environment which may attract visitors to Skinner Butte, especially amidst large-scale events like the World Athletics Championships. However, we also want to imagine long-term ideas to create a dynamic space for cultural celebration, community gathering, and recreation. We hope that our methodologies and findings can further inform the City of Eugene as to what's currently happening on the Butte and how it may be improved.

Research Question

How can we facilitate more positive experiences on Skinner's Butte through placemaking methods?

Sub Questions:

- What do the temporary and permanent residents of Eugene think is missing from the Butte?

- What do they love about it now?

Methodology and Findings

To answer our research questions and create recommendations for the City of Eugene regarding Skinner Butte, we conducted observations, a survey, an interview, and researched several case studies. We wanted to make sure we had as much exposure to those who interacted with the Butte as possible, making the survey and observations crucial to our success. The interview with Kevin Altucker aimed to solidify our understanding of the Butte's history. And our case studies intended to serve as an inspiration for our recommendations, exploring projects that mirrored Skinner Butte's history, geographic demands, and natural beauty. Additionally, in-person methodology was limited due to COVID-19, but the results of our studies captured the actions and feelings of Eugene's residents and visitors.

Observations

Conducting observations allowed us to get a better idea of how people are currently interacting with the space, in order to create the most informed recommendations to improve the Butte through placemaking methods. This gave our team a better sense of the uses of the Butte and the environment during a variety of times, in all kinds of weather.

We conducted our observations between October 19, 2020, and November 14, 2020. Each team member went to the Butte individually to conduct observations in 1-2 hour segments. We made sure to time our visits in order to have a balance of observations during the morning, afternoon, and evening. We mostly kept to ourselves, silently observing the activities of those on the butte, but some of our team members did interact with visitors to get a better sense of who was visiting and why in a more informal way than the survey. All observations were recorded on a pre-made observation form (see Appendix B). We went for a total of 8 days, and a total of 9.75 hours.

Findings

Our observations served mostly to reinforce what we had already discussed with our community partners, that the Butte has a different atmosphere at different times of the day. We encountered a total of 270 people, with about 34 people per hour or two, on average. There was activity on the Butte at all hours of the day. People tended to stay longer as it got later in the day. The most common activities were: eating in cars, smoking

in cars (tobacco and marijuana), taking pictures of the view, and hiking the trails. The most used area was the parking lot, the trails were used some, while the plaza and the open grassy area were used the least. See Appendix A for a table of the observation data of each date.

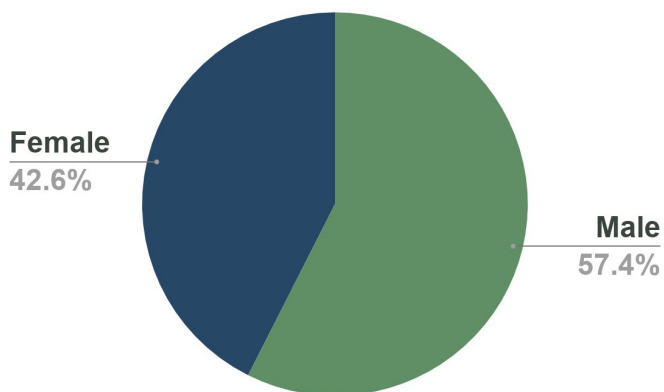


Chart 1: Observation Gender

Demographics

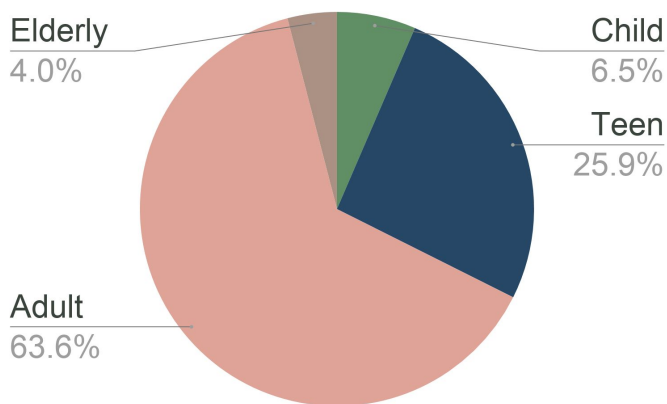


Chart 2: Observation Age Demographics

During our observations, we did our best to note who we were seeing on the Butte. It is notable that children (roughly between the ages of 0-12) only made up 6.5% of the visitors that we saw on the Butte. Teens and adults made up the majority of visitors we saw, and Elderly people made up only 4%. We also saw a larger amount of male visitors than female visitors, which is important to note because our survey demographics were more heavily female.

Analysis

Our observations were helpful in helping our team get more acquainted with the Butte and the possible needs of its visitors. Knowing that the Butte is full of activity at all hours of the day, times of the week, and types of weather, we are sure that any changes we recommend will be seen by a lot of people. The large amount of traffic is a consideration in changes that we recommend regarding infrastructure changes such as for road safety and cleanliness. We hypothesize that the low amount of child visitors and a fewer number of

women visitors could be due to the safety concerns that are addressed in the survey section. Overall, our observations showed us that Skinner Butte is a popular and nice place to spend time in Eugene. See Appendix B, to see what highlights we noted in each observation time, including notes from casual conversations with visitors.

Interview - Kevin Altucker

Kevin Altucker is currently a professor at the University of Oregon and was the engineer tasked with removing the concrete cross from the Butte. From the interview, we were able to solidify our understanding of the history of the cross' installation and gained valuable insight regarding the social climate that elevated the controversy to national attention. Kevin Altucker's father, a local businessman in construction, was asked to put up the large cross in collaboration with a sorority at the University of Oregon. After several years of sitting in his construction yard, Mr. Altucker decided to resurrect the cross himself, meaning there was no apparent connection between the concrete cross, the KKK, and past crosses placed on top of Skinner Butte.

However, it remained a problematic symbol for the community. With the rise of the Civil Rights movement, activists had pushed for the cross to come down forcing a state Supreme Court vote that litigated the cross' removal. In response, the city voted to commemorate the cross as a War Memorial to preserve it. However, the conversation around the separation of church and state remained lively, leading to the inevitable removal of the cross. Despite the concrete cross's rather innocuous history, it is blended within a complex social fabric that had flattened the Christian symbol into one of oppression necessitating its removal. In 1997, Kevin Altucker was the engineer that removed the cross, a spectacle that faced community and national backlash behind the guise of a narrative that those who wanted it removed were anti-Christian or anti-veteran, but the controversy ended peacefully with the cross being relocated to New Hope Bible College.

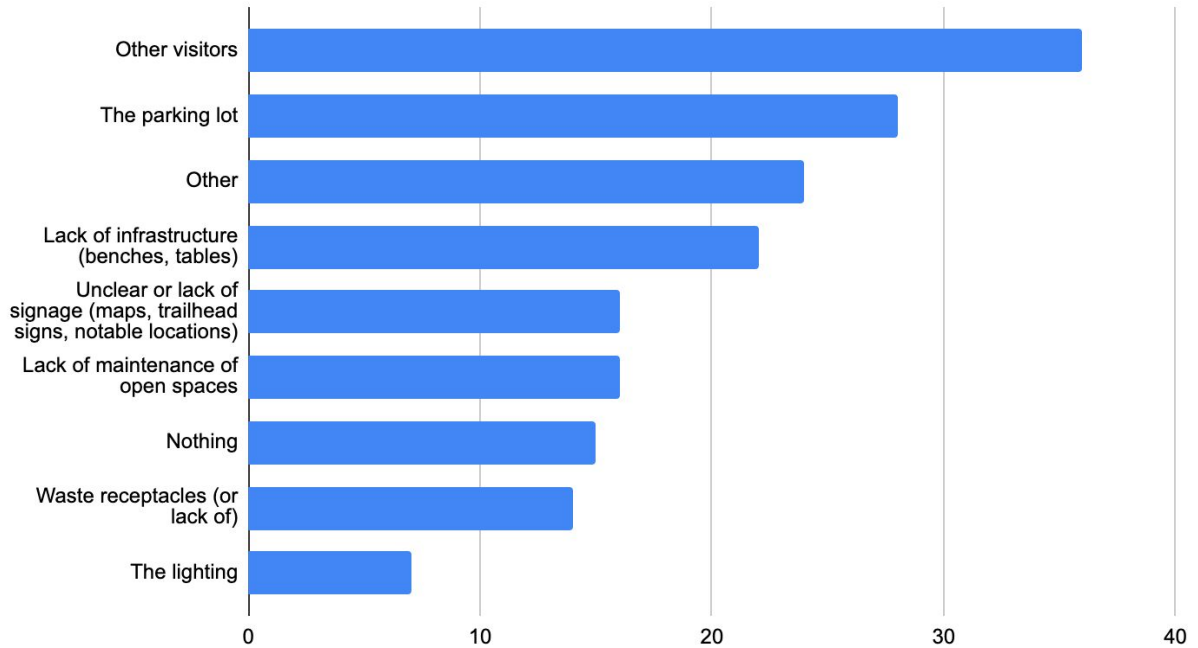
Survey

The survey we sent out was 12 questions long, but the bulk of the information we focused on was questions 5-8. While we had 101 completed responses, 10 of those had not visited the butte and were only asked to answer two questions. Questions 5 and 6 were about what people liked about the butte right now and what they did not like. The respondents were able to pick as many answers as applied to them as well as the option to fill in an "other" category for extra thoughts. These results were out of 91 responses. Distribution for the survey was through a couple primary outlets: a QR code which was printed on signs and displayed on the Butte, a post on the Nextdoor Neighborhood App and on personal social media. The Nextdoor post managed to gain the most traction in responses. The following will be a breakdown of the primary questions, if you would like access to the full survey responses, please feel free to contact us.

Findings

Question 5 “ What has negatively impacted your experience on the Butte? (Select all that apply)”

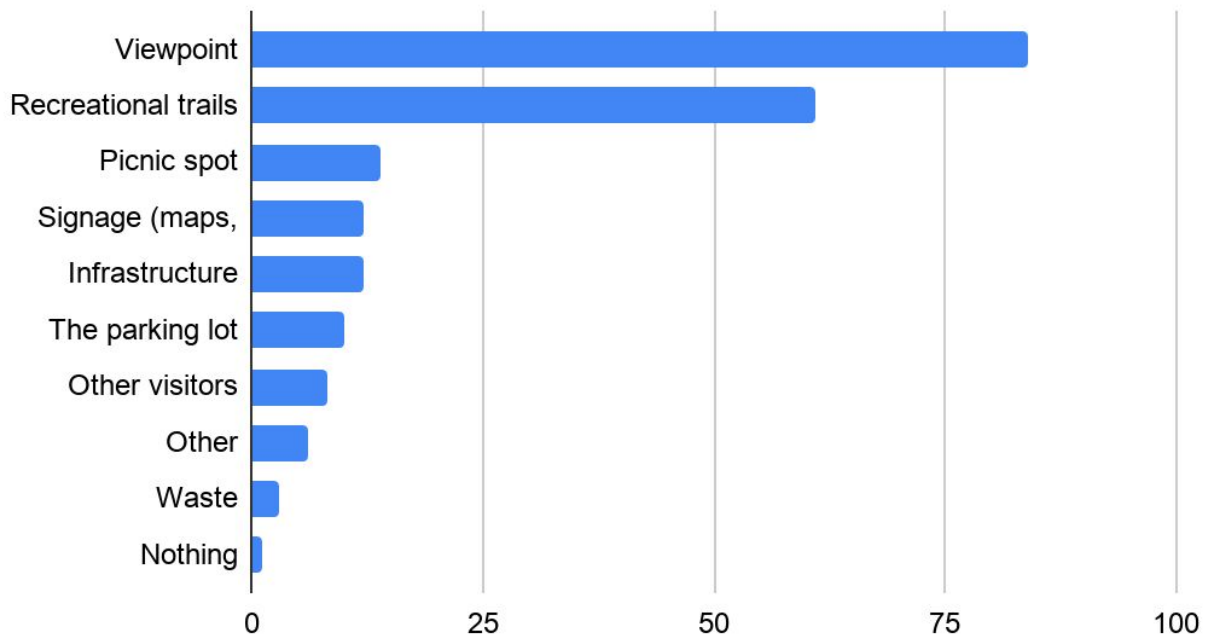
Negative Impacts



Question 5 focuses on the negative things that visitors experience on the Butte which ended up being the actions of other visitors but by less of a margin at 30% of the respondents. However the “other” section was more used and had some interesting themes. The primary theme was a reflection of the actions of other visitors with an emphasis on the high amount of drug use in the park, especially in the parking lot. Other things mentioned were the presence of people camping in the park and the unsafe roads leading up to the park.

Question 6 “What has positively impacted your experience on the Butte? (Select all that apply)”

Positive Impacts



Knowing why people like the park is just important about understanding what people do not like. This data presented respondents with options to pick from for their primary reasons for coming up to the Butte as well as a space for “other”. Among the “other” answers, most were related to living nearby or visiting for work or school. It let us know that the viewpoint was chosen by 92% of respondents..The trails were a close second and were also reflected in the “other” section.

Question 7 “Which changes to Skinner Butte would you be most interested in seeing?”

For question 7 we compiled a list of 8 potential improvements to Skinner Butte park and asked the respondents to rate them on a likert scale ranging from extremely interested to not interested at all. Below are the options and the rankings given to each one.

This question was important to our findings because it let us know what things, in general, people are looking to see improve in the park. It came back with improving trash receptacle ad retrieval as the primary interest for the park visitors at the moment.

#	Question	Extremely interested	Very interested	Moderately interested	Slightly interested	Not interested at all	Total
1	Install art that addresses racism in Eugene	26	18	18	12	17	91
2	Improve trash receptacles and retrieval	33	23	27	4	4	91
3	Create easily accessible self-guided tours	17	22	20	18	14	91
4	Paint Mural in the reservoir rooftop	24	19	18	14	16	91
5	Remove reservoir and naturalize the area	18	18	20	12	23	91
6	Add more signage showing points of interest	19	29	16	17	10	91
7	Add recreational space in the meadow	19	14	18	17	23	91
8	Host more scheduled community events	12	14	20	25	20	91

Question 8

“Do you have any other proposed improvements to the Butte?”

This section allowed respondents to give an open ended response to what they would like to see in the future but was an optional question and did not need to be filled out to move on in the survey. There were approximately 45 free responses filled out which primarily fit into three general categories. Personal safety on the Butte was the first theme to emerge, a lot of respondents took this opportunity to express concern about the amount of smoking and drug use in the park, in the parking lot specifically. There was also a lot of content about the amount of people who are homeless as a concern for safety. The next was concerns about the safety of the road leading up to the park. They expressed a desire for railing and a more controlled speed. Finally, the land use and aesthetics, this consisted of many visitors asking to maintain the natural beauty of the park, address the high volume of trash and other improvements to the landscape. All responses can be found in appendix B.

Analysis

From this information we were able to gauge where we went forward. Being able to understand what is desired from the community was the primary lead for deciding on what suggestions to pursue and what research to follow up on. Knowing that the “best” part of the park to visitors was the viewpoint and trails, we will be sure to re enforce that and keep it at the center of any changes. The areas that need change and the comments we got from the public are what developed into our key findings.

Case Studies

Talking to Trees- Detroit Waterfront Park

As the City of Eugene seeks to improve the user experience of their parks, they might consider a program similar in nature to this initiative that began in Detroit. *Talk Tree To Me* was an interactive design project installed for a month-long design festival in September 2020. The project is a collaboration between Spackman Mossop Michaels (SMM)—a landscape architecture and urban design firm in Detroit and New Orleans—and its partners Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and Sierra Club Michigan Chapter. The project is part urban eco-scavenger hunt and part interactive exhibit. The public is invited to explore the Detroit Riverfront and interact via text message with different species of trees that have been tagged and programmed with facts about themselves as well as the real-life thoughts and questions of local Detroit residents. Select commentary is posted to an online blog associated with the project for residents to read.



***Talk Tree To Me* aims to facilitate a conversation about natural systems and social issues**, using the trees themselves as the vehicle of conversation. In the state of Oregon, the value trees

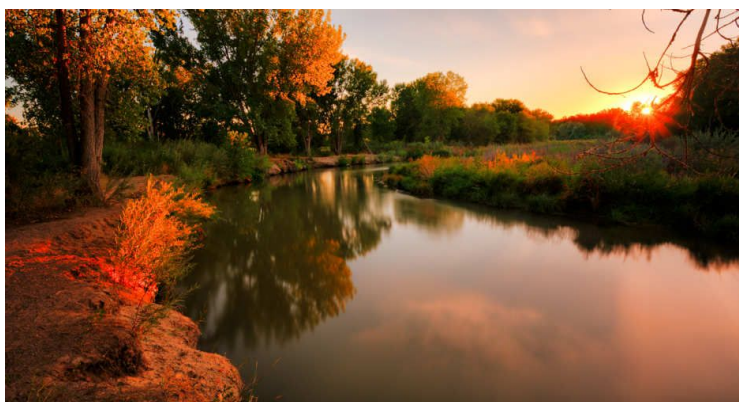
hold in our social fabric is indisputable, but there are many mixed feelings about trees in Detroit. Beyond the tangible issues around urban ecosystem health, economic benefits, and resiliency, trees are tied to larger cultural narratives about identity, race, wealth, and justice.

In the context of Skinner Butte, our team has noticed a call from Eugene residents for more family-friendly activities. We strongly support activities that connect residents to their surroundings in meaningful ways, and an interactive exhibit with the flexibility to change and grow is just what the Butte needs to engage visitors of all ages. Simply, tags with a number to text or a scannable link can provide information about the flora, fauna, or other special points of interest and historical value. These could be temporarily fixed along the recreation trails of Skinner Butte via eco-safe ties or posts. These tags may also become a vehicle for community interaction with the proper infrastructure.

The city of Eugene is interested in improving the Butte before our city hosts the World Athletics Championship in 2021. These tags could be adapted to support any variety of events within the city of Eugene. For example, the tags could be programmed to dispense athletics trivia, fun facts, and history related to Eugene athletics for the duration of the event. It could also be updated to reflect seasonal changes, holidays, and other significant happenings. The possibilities for connection and education within this low-cost framework are infinite.

Jordan River Parkway - Salt Lake City, UT

The park located in Salt Lake City has been tackling the issue of homelessness in their parks for a long time. At one point, it had to come to light that the way it was being addressed was cynical, expensive and ineffective. When park departments themselves address homelessness, they are seeking short term responses that only benefit one part of the community and not those dealing with being homeless. The parks department of Salt Lake City was not seeing any progress and the community kept on badgering them about it. Park resources were heavily strained and they were not seeing any results. After analysis, it is clear that this approach will never find a



solution. Unfortunately, there is still no easy solution to this. The case study however, does analyze different actions and angles that could help alleviate the frustrations some visitors to the park are feeling. Long term solutions do not happen overnight and solutions require a sense of empathy. Some of the primary suggestions need efforts from all parts of the community. It was recommended to begin with educating people that public parks and spaces are for all parts of the community, everyone has just as much of a right to be there as you. They urged visitors who felt passionately about the issue, to do something substantive with that passion, such as getting connected with shelters in the area in order to substantively help. While simple things like this may not drastically change the number of people experiencing homelessness, moving away from harmful stigmas will make the parks environment more welcoming for everyone.

With the abundance of people sending in comments about the population of people who are homeless on Skinner Butte, it is valuable to look at how other parks have dealt with making the city a safer place for everyone. The parks department may not be able to directly create this kind of change, it is something to think about when the public asks for similar things. The city of Eugene has a large population of people without homes and it is important to establish that it is not an issue that can be addressed by one person or sector of government, it is an effort by an entire community.

Rumors of War Statue - Richmond Virginia

Rumors of War is a statue created by Kehinde Wiley who is famous for painting the official portrait of Barack Obama. However, he is not primarily known for illustrating Black excellence. Instead, he uses art to elevate the everyday Black American within the classical European tradition of power and status (VMFA). Wiley designed the Rumors of War statue amidst national protests against the racial caste system in the United States. Although these movements emerged as a direct result of police brutality, they had also attempted to illuminate the foundational role white supremacy plays in the American psyche.



The south, notorious for its shrines to racism, had emerged as the center of debate for how to deal with these monuments. Robert E. Lee sits heroically atop a horse in the center of Richmond, VA. With a large Black population and a Black mayor, the city was left trying to cope with the racist symbolism of a Confederate Monument. Because decommissioning

statues is wildly expensive and would likely spark violent backlash, the city commissioned Wiley to design a statue to honor the city's Black tradition and confront its racist history (Stamberg). Wiley's statue takes its name from the Bible and aims to reframe the heroic narrative away from whiteness to center everyday Black people. The name also cleverly reorients onlookers toward a new war, one with Black youth on the frontlines. This is an important reframing of history because it redistributes who is at the center of American idolization.

By creating an unnamed figure for Rumors of War, Wiley democratizes the nature of memorializing history. This is a key takeaway for addressing the problematic past of Skinner Butte. The approach must be bottom-up, representing the voices of those most directly impacted by racism and erasure. I think this case study also illuminates that statues act as rigid historical artifacts within an ever changing landscape of culture and social values, thereby never being protected from public ridicule, but nonetheless unchangeable in the face of ridicule. Any project that goes atop the Butte must be capable of change and adaptation. Another key takeaway from this case study is that successful projects are direct. Of course painting BLM on a newly resurrected cross on the Butte would be a rather unimaginative solution. Instead we must identify major themes of conflict (religious symbolism, white supremacy, land appropriation, erasure, etc.) to address when designing any solution.

Alum Rock Park - San Diego

Alum Rock Park is a 720 acre viewpoint park in the city of San Jose, California. The park includes trails, picnic tables, barbecue pits, a children's playground, and public restrooms. Founded in 1872, the park has been used by the Native peoples of the Alson Tribelet, used as a health resort, and is now a public city park (City of San Jose, *ALUM ROCK PARK*). The city has emphasized public education regarding the park's natural resources and returning lands to a natural state. Alum Rock Park and San Diego are vastly larger than Skinner Butte, and Eugene, however the parks are comparable in their historical and environmental significance within their cities.

Alum Rock Park is home to the Youth Science Institute, which offers school activities and has a museum. Alum Rock Park also hosts a summer camp with activities such as hiking, exploring creek waters, bird watching, etc. The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

JUNIOR RANGER EXPLORER

Hi my name is Bandit and I will help guide you through your missions to becoming a Junior Ranger.



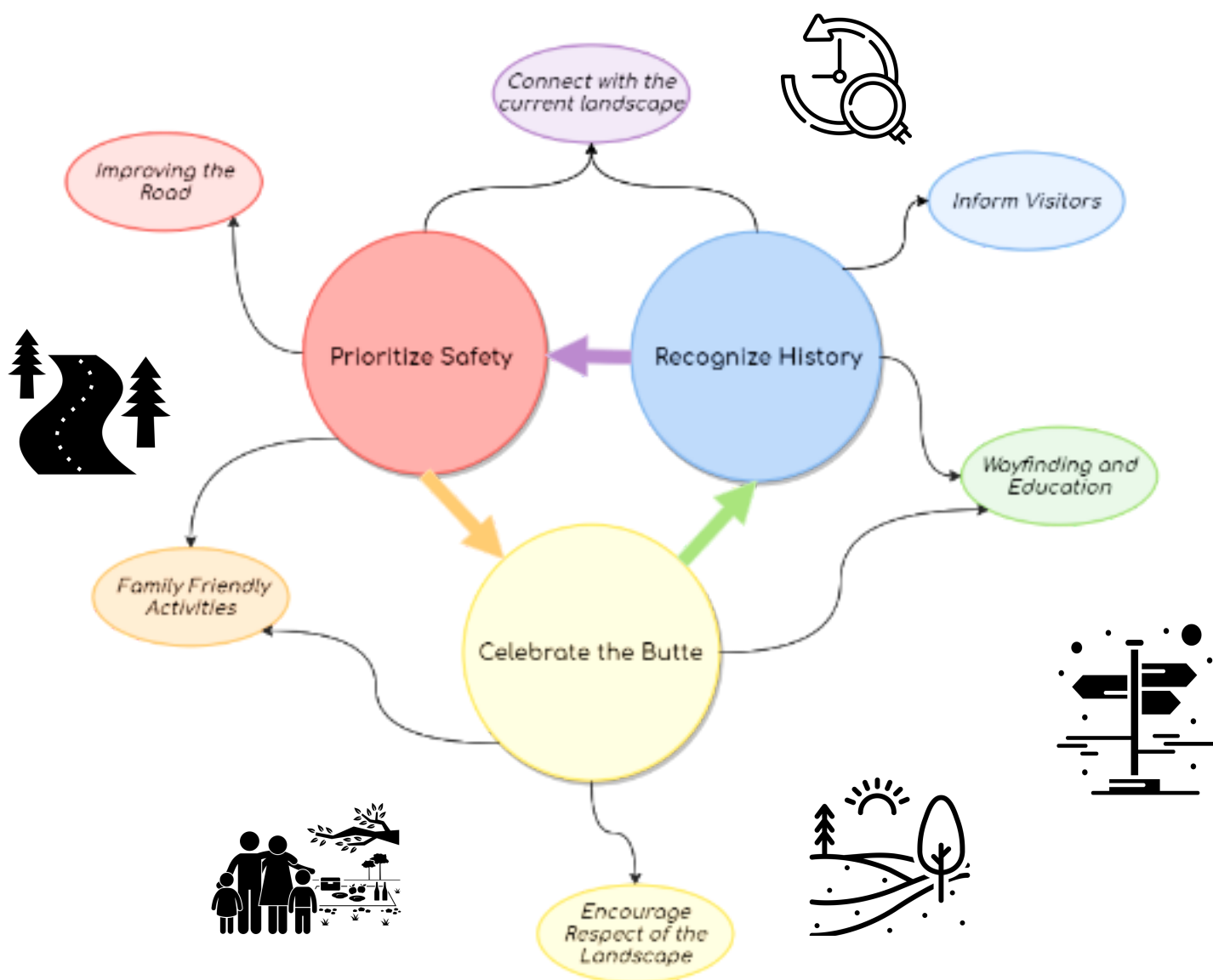
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also offers free walks in the park and the park's website has many public resources available. A 2017 Gateway and Wayfinding study recommended that the park should: create an iconic logo for park brochures, website and signage, provide a gateway entrance structure at each entrance and utilize stone and wood materials to reflect the park's character, improve the parks webpage and mapping information, and to incorporate more unique signage. A "Junior Ranger Explorer Guide" provides a book of activities for children, including a cartoon mascot, safety tips, a park map, and several "missions" that teach the children about the native plants and animals at the park. One hiking activity says "Can you find the light post with the holes? The birds that made them, Acorn Woodpeckers, live in groups and share the food they store for the winter," (City of San Jose, *Junior Ranger Explorer Guide*).

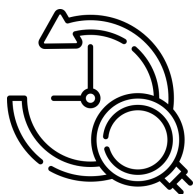
Skinner Butte could learn from Alum Rock Park through their science and community programming. Although it's not feasible to have a science institute on the small Skinner Butte site, the City of Eugene could invite other similar organizations to increase recognition of Skinner Butte as a natural resource. Skinner Butte could also learn from the wayfinding study, through improving trail signage on the butte, and improving online maps. Lastly, small brochures and activity guides could be developed in relation to Skinner Butte's history and natural aspects as well.

Findings

Throughout the term, we have conducted various forms of research, as detailed in our methodology. Our recommendations for Skinner Butte are informed by three key findings from this research. The Butte is a stunning place to be; thus, celebrating and protecting the natural landscape will be vital to preserving its beauty and sense of place. To best support all visitors of Skinner Butte, we must prioritize their sense of safety so that their visits feel comfortable. Finally, recognizing the complicated history of the Butte as culturally relevant offers opportunities for both education and connection on the Butte.



Recommendations



Recognize History

We are recommending that the City of Eugene, in the short term, address the history of Skinner Butte by intertwining it within other projects (eg. interactive map, story walk, cultural events, etc.) At a longer time-scale, we recommend that the city create, or renew, some infrastructure on top of the Butte in order to pay homage to those most directly implicated in Skinner Butte's history. At this point, the specific form an art piece would take is not defined because it should come organically from these communities.

The art piece itself should not be the only way agency is given back to marginalized communities. The methodology for putting in an art piece should, itself, be an act of empowerment. First, the city must solidify its relationship with marginalized communities, most notably the Kalapuya people and the Black community. The city can start by reaching out to a local NAACP chapter, the UO Black Student Union, tribal liaison's like Jason Younker, etc. The city must be able to identify the major concerns of these communities and treat the relationship, and resulting projects, as experimental and flexible. Additionally, the city should be able to collaborate effectively with these communities on smaller projects, like those mentioned in other recommendations, before creating an art piece.

The Parks Department should facilitate the conversations between these communities and the Library, Recreation, and Cultural Services departments in order to smooth out the implementation of cultural projects on top of the Butte. The infrastructure for facilitating dialogue between the multiple stakeholders will need to be immense. There will also need to be money for the commissioning of an artist as a result of the extensive conversations. Upon the solidification of an idea for an art project on top of the Butte, there should be a community review process.

Ideas:

- Permission Walls
 - In Denver, walls have been set aside to allow residents to legally graffiti on them. This has effectively democratized the art-making process, allowing the people to visually represent their concerns and stories in public space (McGhee). Similarly, a friend of the Skinner Butte team had used chalk to

write in the names of some of those who died as a result of police brutality. How can the City of Eugene allow for the momentum from activism to become readily represented on public spaces?

- Giving Land to the Kalapuya
 - In 2019, Eureka, California returned more than 200 acres of land back to the Wiyot Tribe, as it represented the “physical and cultural center of the universe for the Wiyot peoples” (Taylor). Although significant land returns are difficult, the City of Eugene could explore expanding the Kalapuya peoples’ managerial role in Skinner Butte. As a people familiar with the landscape, offering a sense of policy agency over space would give the Kalapuya a level of representation more impactful than an art project.
- North Shore Streamkeepers
 - In Vancouver, Washington, the North Shore Streamkeepers have helped to “facilitate salmon conservation themed art and science based workshops offered to local elementary schools. The workshops raise awareness [for salmon conservation] and have resulted in murals painted throughout the city” (North Shore Streamkeepers). Given that the City of Eugene already has an infrastructure for mural-making, the North Shore Streamkeepers’ efforts offer an exceptionally relevant example for how to turn activism and education efforts into meaningful art.



Impact:

As a space that epitomizes Native American erasure and anti-Black racism, there is a moral imperative for the city to facilitate conversation and educate residents. Images and art are powerful components in story-making, and thus, are integral in reshaping the community’s awareness for those on the receiving end of injustice. This educational project should then be used to inform the city of how to give agency and voice to those without, identifying a methodology for centering exploited communities within major city projects.

Improve the Road



To encourage considerate usage of the existing roadways on Skinner Butte, there must be infrastructure in place to increase awareness of narrow passages and blindspots. There is substantial concern from

visitors of Skinner Butte that the road leading to the top of the butte is unsafe for a multitude of reasons. The road lacks adequate signage and physical deterrents to prevent certain users from driving at unsafe speeds around the Butte's winding road. Revving engines and squealing tires are more than an auditory annoyance; they are a hazard to others on the road.



An area of great concern is the blindspot curve just up the road from the gate. This area is too narrow for two cars to safely pass each other driving opposite directions, increasing the opportunity for near misses. At its narrowest, the two-way portion of pavement before the loop is a mere 18-20ft wide. Pedestrians, runners, and cyclists also access the butte via this road, and while 20ft is the minimum accepted width for a two-way road, this area lacks sufficient buffer space along the edges for non-motorized traffic to safely travel alongside cars.

The Eugene City Department of Transportation, in partnership with those in Parks and Open Space planning, must conduct an evaluation of existing conditions before deciding on possible improvements. Signage that draws attention to the speed limit, narrow lanes, and blind spots could be installed within a matter of weeks, as could a flashing sign that displays the speed visitors are travelling and warns them to slow down. The same goals might also be accomplished by adding symbols or warnings to the surface of the road with paint. Despite their cost-effectiveness and quick turnaround, physical deterrents may be more effective than visual ones. Speed bumps will require more resources and planning but could be designed and implemented in under a year on critical points of the butte.

Expanding the buffer space around the existing road to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists might be of benefit, but it will likely require the most time and resources.

Ideas:

- Signage or paint
 - Draw attention to narrow lanes, blindspots
- Speed deterrents
 - Speed bumps, speed flashing sign
- Expand cycling and pedestrian safety
 - Protected lanes, alternative paths

Impact:

Increased safety, decreased potential for accidents/near-misses, improved walkability, and a sense of belonging on the road.

Encourage Family-Friendly Activities



We recommended that family-friendly activities are encouraged on the Butte. These could be temporary installations, nature hikes, and other organized educational visits to Skinner Butte. This is an invitation for other organizations to utilize Skinner Butte to create a family-friendly environment. People with families who responded to our survey are concerned by the unsavory behaviors of other users of the Butte, which discourages them from visiting with their children. The City of Eugene can partner with other local organizations in order to facilitate more educational and family-friendly activities on the Butte, fostering a more welcoming environment while dissuading negative behaviors of other visitors. Organizations have already made use of Eugene's city parks, and Skinner Butte is an excellent resource for these organizations.

Ideas:

- Story Walk (Eugene Public Library's Facebook Page, November 8th, 2020)
- Talk to Trees Program- similar to case study
- Nature walks (self-guided or hosted by local nature-centered organizations post COVID-19)
- Scheduled music, art, performances (post COVID-19)

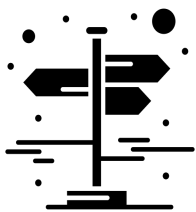


Although this recommendation is ideally short term, Covid-19 may hinder some of the activities that organizations might want to do. This recommendation would need the cooperation of the City of Eugene parks staff with staff members of the individual organizations. Some example organizations include; the Eugene Public Library, the Cascades Raptor Center, the Eugene Science Center (also known as the Eugen Science Factory), Nearby Nature, Whole Earth Nature School, and others. It will need open communication with the organization and Parks staff members. The budget and resources needed will depend on the types of activities that the outside organizations would want to do. For example, to install a story walk, the Library might provide its posters but there would need to be monitoring to make sure they are respected.

Impact:

This would create more cohesion between the Parks and Recreation staff, the City of Eugene, and other organizations that work in Eugene. It will create a sense of community on the Butte with increased intentional use from different community organizations. The presence of children, organized groups, and temporary educational installations such as a “story walk” will create a more family-friendly environment and increase feelings of safety for all ages.

Provide Wayfinding and Education: Interactive Map



We recommend that a new map be made, with a physical component and a more detailed and educational online component. There are numerous trails, landmarks, and points of interest that can be enjoyed on the top of Skinner Butte. Making these attractions more visible and accessible would help visitors foster a sense of connection to the landscape. As of December, there is no map on the Skinner Butte website, making it difficult for new visitors to navigate their way on

the Butte. The survey results indicated a strong interest in having more opportunities to learn about the cultural and natural history of the Butte. An interactive map will also be useful for visitors from outside of Eugene, both in wayfinding on trails and learning more about Eugene and it’s natural landscape. This can be linked to the internet from the physical map by a QR code or something similar.

There is already an “interactive map” project by the City of Eugene Mapping hub; this could be made with those resources. It could also be a separate and more simple project, where web pages full of information are made and can be accessed by clicking on numbers that are featured on the physical map. Some special places that could be included are; the line that goes down the Willamette, the big O, The big E, the lookout, the different types of

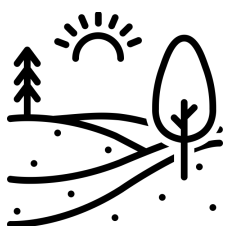
environment, etc. It will also highlight and inform of key historical places such as; the observatory, the reservoir, the quarry, and the cross. It could also make a connection to places off of the Butte, such as the River Play Park. Additionally, to cater to visitors on the Butte, there could be a view component that points out important places that one can see in the view from Skinner Butte, such as the U of O, Willamette Street, Spencer Butte, etc.

The City may have to hire a technical programming professional to create the interactive online annotated map. There's also the need for someone or a team of people who are knowledgeable about the city of Eugene, it's history, the Butte, and the natural environment to develop the educational blurbs and features that will be made available on the map.

Impact:

This interactive map will be a concentrated resource for all of the educational information that the community is looking for or would benefit from. This map will make trails more clear and easily navigable, and it will also highlight the history, natural history, and special places on and around the Butte.

Respect the Landscape



Skinner Butte is heavily trafficked by picnickers, partiers, and people who just don't know where the garbage cans are. The litter and refuse left on the Butte detracts from the overall beauty and poses a risk to the natural landscape. A volunteer trash pick up program would help to alleviate some responsibility from public works, who mainly focus on keeping the parking lot and plaza clean. The trails around the Butte, especially the Loop trail, tend to accumulate litter as there are no waste receptacles along the trail. This offers a great opportunity for community involvement and volunteer work.

Ideas:

- Volunteer trash pick-up program
- Leave no Litter signage
- Increase visibility of existing garbage cans

The volunteer clean-up program is a project that may require outside leadership, either from the public school system, juvenile detention centers, or other City of Eugene departments that would be able to organize and oversee volunteer clean up days. Some resources will be needed, such as protective coverings (gloves, masks, visibility vest), collection bags, litter pick-up stick/grabber, sharp containers, and ways to transport refuse off the Butte. Participation from young adults and other community members is

essential, as is oversight and organization structured within City departments and Public Works. Once the scope and oversight have been organized, then this project could begin almost immediately.

In the meantime, signage that encourages users to leave no litter could help deter further environmental degradation. Increasing the visibility of the existing garbage cans, either with a fresh coat of paint or by relocating them, could encourage their intended use. It should be noted that there are currently no recycling receptacles on the Butte, and a large portion of the trash left behind, like bottles, cans, and papers, do not belong in the garbage. Adding a recycling bin to the Butte, if used properly by visitors, could help keep some of the trash left on the Butte out of landfills.

Impact:

Alleviate the environmental stresses caused by litter left on the Butte and provide an opportunity for building community and work ethic.

Final Conclusion

Prior to this project, our team did not have a significant relationship with Skinner Butte. Throughout our hours of observations and hearing from the people who love to visit, we came to understand and appreciate it as well. Despite its complex history, this landmark is a source of joy and connection within Eugene. This is a place where students bring their parents from out of state, where people propose, where athletes train, and memories are made. We're excited to see how this area will be explored in the future and hope that our recommendations will help the Butte to flourish for years to come.

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Appendix A: Observation Dates

Date	Time	Weather	# of People
Monday 10/19	Evening 6:00pm-7:00pm	Cloudy and calm	41
Friday 10/23	Afternoon 2:00pm-4:00pm	Overcast but overall nice	56
Monday 10/26	Mid-Day 10:30am-12:45pm	Sunny and partly cloudy	33
Saturday 10/31	Morning 7:00am-8:00am	Foggy and damp	15
Sunday 11/1	Afternoon 1:00pm-2:00pm	Sunny, low 50s	17
Tuesday 11/3	Mid-Day 11:00am-12:30pm	Cloudy with light showers	39
Friday 11/6	Evening 7:00pm-8:00pm	Chilly, overcast, dark	25
Monday 11/9	Afternoon 2:00pm-3:00pm	Partly sunny, chilly	44
	Total: 9.75 hours (about 10)	Cloudy: 5 Sunny: 3	Total: 270 Avg: 33.75

Table 1: Observation dates data

Appendix B: Observation Forms

Observation notes form: Skinners Butte project

Name(s): Allie

Date: 10-19-20

Start time:

6pm sunset

Endtime: 7pm

Weather: cloudy and calm

What locations on the butte did you observe from? (Note which locations your observations were in questions below too if multiple)

How many people were visible at the beginning of your observation? At the end?

Full parking lot at 6pm

Some cars cleared the lot after sunset, but more cars parked along the road

Demographics (answer in numbers/tally):

White: 26

Male: 23

Children: 5

Black: 8

Female: 18

Teen/young adult: 20

Asian: 7

Non-Binary:

Adult: 11

Native/Indigenous American:

Elderly: 5

Other non-white:

Dogs:2

What activities were visitors engaging (and who of the above categories)? Abbreviate from above letters if needed (Ex. BFA- Black female adult, WMC-White male child)

Approx 24 cars in lot and more parked around the road leading to the butte

4 cars of young adults smoking weed

1 car of has large bottles of liquor out

Someone is flying a drone

A child rides his bike down the meadow hill

Pink mini coop with loud engine drove into the Plaza and then continued to rev around the butte

Couples tend to go toward the flag pole. Groups stay in front of cars in the parking lot

Families tend toward the walking path and some used the Plaza as a brief viewpoint

Young adult white male pees on the side of the green cinder block structure

Another car parks in the Plaza after the coop leaves

5 14yr old boys skateboarding in the parking lot

6:30pm- only 4 of the original cars have left. More parked on edge of the roadway

Two families taking photos of the sunset in the Plaza

How did people interact with each other on the Butte?

Generally gave each other space

A man asked another about his van

Cars of smoking young adults acknowledged each other

Groups of 4-7 smoking and drinking, playing loud music exchanged pleasantries

Observation notes form: Skinners Butte project

Name(s): xitlali

Date: 10/26/2020 Start time: 10:30 Endtime: 12:45

Weather: sunny/partly cloudy

What locations on the butte did you observe from? (Note which locations your observations were in questions below too if multiple)

Flagpole, on wall near plaza, bench near hiking path on west side

How many people were visible at the beginning of your observation? At the end?

4-10

Demographics (answer in numbers/tally):

White: most	Male: 20	Children:	
Black: 3		Female: 14	Teen/young adult: 6
Asian: 1		Non-Binary:	Adult: 26
Native/Indigenous American:			Elderly: 2
Other non-white:			

What activities were visitors engaging (and who of the above categories)? Abbreviate from above letters if needed (Ex. BFA- Black female adult, WMC-White male child)

- Four people looked like they were doing maintenance or something on the southside
- Two ppl came and stood on the wall to take pictures, then walked down to the o, took pics, they were from huntington beach California, (expected to see palm trees) (WFA)
- More taking pictures
- Couple eating in their car while other takes pics of each other (WFA, WMA)
- More eating in the car.
- Man came from Sacramento, considering moving to Eugene for the outdoorsy part of it also want to move somewhere cooler. Better starting point, clearer on website. Said yes to self guided tour (WMA)
- Smoking in car 2
- Older people just sat in car and talked
- Only saw 1 man using trails (WMA)
- Two people on bike, layed down bikes (AMA, WWA)
- Eating lunch near flagpole looked like work party

How did people interact with each other on the Butte?

What areas were used the most? What areas were used the least?

Parking lot used the most

Hiking trails used the least

Generally how long did people visit the Butte while you were there?

- young couple came up and went to plaza area for about 10 mins
- Two girls stayed for like half an hour sitting at flagpole
- One man was at plaza for a while, homeless?
- People started staying longer later

Is there anything else you found notable?

- there was chalk art at the flagpole (see image)
- Noisy saw/lawnmower started at 11:30
- The police drove around

Lady (WWA) and guy (AMA) who biked at top, woman had a lot to say:

- bikes everyday
- When white people conquered, offensive,
- Not as much people stuff
- Art on existing table, kalapuya art as well as blm stuff,
- Shut off parking lot, less people using exhaust,
- Respite

Observation notes form: Skinners Butte project

Name(s): Allie

Date: Oct 31 2020 saturday. Start time: 7am Endtime: 8am

Weather: foggy

What locations on the butte did you observe from? (Note which locations your observations were in questions below too if multiple)

Outside the gate 7-7:30

Lookout 7-8

How many people were visible at the beginning of your observation? At the end?

One other car parked at the gate with me

One person walking up road

Demographics (answer in numbers/tally):

White: 14

Male:7

Children: 0

Black: 0

Female: 8

Teen/young adult: 2

Asian: 0

Non-Binary:

Adult: 13

Native/Indigenous American: 0

Elderly: 0

Other non-white: 1

What activities were visitors engaging (and who of the above categories)? Abbreviate from above letters if needed (Ex. BFA- Black female adult, WMC-White male child)

Group of 6 women running in costumes with headlamps and a small dog
Robin, bumblebee, ghost, dancer and two not dressed up

2 white women running with flashlight

Public works guy here to unlock gate at 7:35

At the top, a man in a reflective vest uses a grabber to pick up trash left from the day before. Takeout boxes, smashed pumpkins, and coffee cups

One car with 2 young adult males pull up to the parking lot to smoke weed, stay 20min

A hispanic man gets out of his car to stretch and then re enters. He later reemerges to take a picture

Black truck with white male pulls up to smoke, stayed 5min

An elderly man in a up Harry runs up the road and onto the trail

A middle eastern man walks to the flag pole to take selfies

How did people interact with each other on the Butte?

They kept to themselves

What areas were used the most? What areas were used the least?

The parking lot and trails

Generally how long did people visit the Butte while you were there?

Cars that arrived when the gates opened were still there after my hour of observation

Cars that arrived around 7:30 left after about 10min

Observation notes form: Skinners Butte project

Name(s): Siobhan Nolan

Date: 11/1/2020

Start time: 1:00

Endtime:

Weather: 52 and sunny

What locations on the butte did you observe from? (Note which locations your observations were in questions below too if multiple)

How many people were visible at the beginning of your observation? At the end?

Parking lot is half full, there's a group of people filming something

Demographics (answer in numbers/tally):

White:111111111 (9)

Male:111111 (7)

Children:11 (2)

Black: 11111 (4)

Female:111111 (6)

Teen/young adult:111 (3)

Asian:

Non-Binary:

Adult:11111111 (8)

Native/Indigenous American:

Elderly:

Other non-white:

What activities were visitors engaging (and who of the above categories)? Abbreviate from above letters if needed

(Ex. BFA- Black female adult, WMC-White male child)

WMA smoking by the big E

W couple walking dogs

NW M sitting talking on the phone eating lunch

How did people interact with each other on the Butte?

I did not, people were very much keeping to themselves

What areas were used the most? What areas were used the least?

The parking lot

Generally how long did people visit the Butte while you were there?

Very varied, one group was there when I got there and were still there when I left.

Is there anything else you found notable?

The weather was beautiful, it was the most people I have seen on the trails.

Observation notes form: Skinners Butte project

Name(s): Kyle Martini

Date: 11/9/2020 Start time: 2pm Endtime: 3pm

Weather: Partly sunny, a little chilly (53 degrees)

What locations on the butte did you observe from? (Note which locations your observations were in questions below too if multiple)

The plaza

How many people were visible at the beginning of your observation? At the end?

19 cars, 17 people outside of their cars (at the beginning) 13 cars, 15 people outside of their cars (at the end)

Demographics (answer in numbers/tally):

White:	(33)	Male:	(24)	Children:
Black:	(4)	Female:	(18)	Teen/young adult:
Asian:	(5)	Non-Binary:		Adult:
Native/Indigenous American:				Elderly:
Other non-white:				

What activities were visitors engaging (and who of the above categories)? Abbreviate from above letters if needed (Ex. BFA- Black female adult, WMC-White male child)

Visitors A lot of visitors came up and stayed in their car

There were two people that came to the butte with expensive cameras and tripods (set up in different areas) (WMA, WFA)

Some people were just walking around but did not stay for very long (WMA, WMT, WFA, WFT)

Many Other just looked around at the different view points and then departed (WFC, WFA, WFT, WMA, WMT, BFA, AMA, AFA,)

How did people interact with each other on the Butte?

There were more single person parties this observation, and they did not interact with anyone beyond a simple gesture.

Even those in larger parties stuck to those within their own party and did not interact with many people.

What areas were used the most? What areas were used the least?

The plaza and the parking lot were the most used spaces with some trail use.

Generally how long did people visit the Butte while you were there?

The photographers stayed for more than thirty minutes, and many in their cars did as well. However, many others who went outside did not stay for more than 15 minutes.

Appendix C: Write-In Survey Responses

Safety and Drug Use:

“More police to quell the unsafe behavior of folks on meth and heroin”

“House people and provide safe, approved places to park vehicles so they don’t have to sleep in our parks and neighborhoods. It’s bad for everyone, not least of all the people who are camping in the cold, wet, unsafe and sometimes smoky outdoors”

“Make it safer”

“A police presence to get rid of the homeless and the young adults who play loud music and do drugs and litter and drink alcohol appear”

“Enforce no-camping”

“Figure out how to deal with crime in the park. Doesn’t feel safe.”

“Get rid of the homeless campers. I feel unsafe every time, and never take my kids there because of it. Nice walk, honey, look at the birds and...hobos?!”

“Homeless situation is getting a bit scary. Don't feel as safe and the garbage is piling up”

“More police to run of the pot smokers. I want to go there to breath FRESH air”

“Prevent drug, tobacco and alcohol use and get rid of homeless/vagrants camping and trashing around”

“More enforcement of rules and cleaning of outdoor space. The area was littered with broken bottles, cans, and I even saw people throwing wrappers on the ground. I politely asked them to pick up the trash and they asked if I was going to call the cops. I said no but that they should do the right thing. They eventually picked it up when I offered to do so if they weren’t going to. Very discouraging. They were teenagers who were obviously high. The other issue is cars running in the parking lot- the fumes make it really unsafe to be outside at the viewpoint especially with animals”

Road Safety:

“Keep road gates closed and only allow pedestrian traffic up to the top. People drive unreasonably fast up and down the butte at all hours”

“Improve the roads”

“Resurface the road up there”

“more parking”

“Close it down to cars for the entire week of the 4th of July. It's too dangerous and people are too irresponsible to safely navigate those roads during that time”

“Speed bumps all the way up to the top. I loved when the toad was closed during early Covid days. Suggest making this permanent? Or maybe try it out on the weekends? Consider permanently closing off the road near the climbing columns so there is no longer a public thru-way East-west along the south side of the butte. This creates extra traffic that could just as easily use Shelton McMurphy. Closing off access to the parking lot more often seems to improve the atmosphere of the viewpoint. Every morning I see people parked in cars smoking cigarettes or exchanging packages between cars. We certainly don't need any police up there, but maybe an ice cream stand. Again, LOVE the new trails. I use them every morning. Speed bumps, traffic obstacles, anything to discourage speeding up and down the road. There are two areas where pedestrians have to cross the road, and there are blind spots for both drivers and peds”

“Safety guards when traveling up and down by car”

Land Use / Aesthetics / Trash:

“Clear underbrush on the north side substantially. I wish the entire butte could return to its native oak savannah and meadow”

“Get rid of the parking lot and make it accessible on foot from the south side”

“Needs controlled burns to reduce fire hazard. Needs natural habitat restoration for plants, trees, and animals”

“Make sure any foliage / plant updates are natural/native plants please!!”

“There really ought to be an art installation addressing how skimmers butte once held a KKK cross. It's the only way to help educate and heal our community”

“Remove the cell phone tower. Maybe have some limits around sound/music that people blare out of the cars. There is a lot of partying that goes on. I mean I don't mind some people having fun and it can get a little edgy. Murals are nice but I am not sure this is a “needed” addition for this area...”

“Crosswalk for new trail”

“More attention paid to the endless "shortcuts" people make to the steeper hiking trail. Trampling plants, bogging up undergrowth and just generally disrespecting the space”

“Keep as natural as possible, given the level of use”

Misc:

“I would love more info about the owls and other birds that live there — and info on the native plants”

“Add information signs around SMJ House”

“If possible, make the other half of the columns climbable! I love climbing at the columns!”

“We love this treasure. I’m sympathetic to homelessness but the places where they have camped are totally trashed. Accidentally stumbling into one and seeing the incredible mess made was disheartening. I fear a mural or other art installation would only be defaced so keeping it natural makes more sense. This is where we started our grandkids hiking, where we bike up for quick exercise often and where we go to see the sunset and views”

“It would be nice to post signage that shows the evolution and history of the butte from volcanic activity to Native American usage to Eugene Skinner, to the Sheltons and McMurpheys to the UO to the present. Maybe interactive like clues on the signage to find the next site”